



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 3, 2010**

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### **RIDLEY-THOMAS MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATED REPORTING OF CRITICAL CHILD DEATH DATA FROM 2000 THROUGH 2010 WINS UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**

**LOS ANGELES** — Citing conflicts in critical data concerning child death cases as currently reported by various County offices, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas today moved to have the Board of Supervisors establish a standardized system for the collection, definition, and classification of critical child death data.

“It is impossible for us to address the problems that exist regarding child fatality cases within the County, including cases of abuse or neglect, without a coherent, accurate and standardized process for collecting and maintaining all critical data,” said Ridley-Thomas. “I have been shocked and disappointed to learn that although many County offices collect child death data, there is no single source within the County that can provide standardized data to all of the entities, including the Board, who have responsibility for the care and protection of our most vulnerable children.”

Today’s motion, which was co-authored by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, identified multiple entities that are currently collecting and managing key data regarding child deaths in the County including the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Coroner’s Office, the Children’s

Special Investigations Unit, and the Commission for Children and Families. Currently each agency interprets and establishes its own definitions and classification criteria for the data it produces and/or reviews.

The motion was a follow-up to an October 12 motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas calling for child death trend data from 1990 to the present. On Tuesday, Supervisor Don Knabe proposed an amendment to the Ridley-Thomas-Antonovich motion to limit data reporting to the current year forward. Knabe had been the only board member to vote against the October 12 motion. As a compromise, the Board agreed unanimously to gather data from 2000 to the present.

Due to the number of agencies currently engaged in the protection of the welfare of children, there is no single reliable source of information and data on which the Board can rely for a clear understanding of facts. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved today's motion which requires a report back to the Board within 30 days regarding the requested information.

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